

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11626 01 OF 02 241842Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 PC-01 SCA-01 VO-03 CU-02 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 AGR-05

FAA-00 DOTE-00 /106 W

----- 009707

R 241735Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2137

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 11626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA; IMPROVED U.S.

-NIGERIAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: LENGTHY DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 21 WITH GARBA PRODUCED VARIETY OF UPBEAT RESPONSES ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN. GARBA AUTHORIZED EMBASSY DISCUSS JOINT COMMISSION CONCEPT WITH OTHER MINISTRIES AND SHOWED PERSONAL INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOW SUCH A COMMISSION MIGHT WORK. WITH REGARD NIGERIAN MANPOWER NEEDS, HE SAID HE THOUGHT EXPANDED PEACE CORPS PRESENCE MIGHT BE USEFUL, AND HE GAVE EMBASSY AND PC REPRESENTATIVE STAGLIANO GREEN LIGHT TO PURSUE POSSIBILITIES WITH RELEVANT MINISTRIES. HE PROMISED HIS MINISTRY'S SUPPORT ON VISA PROBLEMS AND AUTHORIZED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS VISA REQUEST FOR WASHINGTON POST REPORTER WITH PERTINENT FMG OFFICES. ONLY RESPONSE THAT WAS LESS THAN FULLY SATISFACTORY WAS ON NIGERIAN VOTES ON KOREAN AND ZIONISM ISSUES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 11626 01 OF 02 241842Z

GARBA STRESSED IMPORTANCE FMG PLACED ON A VISIT BY SECRETARY

KISSINGER TO NIGERIA. HE HOPED SEE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON
EARLY DECEMBER. HE WOULD LET US KNOW ABOUT POSSIBLE DATES FOR
A VISIT BY UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON. END SUMMARY

2. VISIT TO AFRICA BY SECRETARY. I HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION
NOVEMBER 21 AT MY REQUEST WITH COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS GARBA ON WAYS TO IMPROVE U.S. - NIGERIAN RELATIONS.
WHILE AGREEING THAT STATE OF CURRENT RELATIONSHIP GOOD
AND ON DEFINITE UPSWING, GARBA EMPHASIZED THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S VISIT RANKS FIRST ON HIS LIST OF STEPS TOWARD
FURTHER IMPROVEMENT. I ASSURED HIM OF SECRETARY'S DESIRE
VISIT NIGERIA BUT SAID THAT IDENTIFICATION OF DATES NOT YET
POSSIBLE. GARBA INSISTED THAT "EVEN IF IT IS LATER IN THE
YEAR," SECRETARY MUST COME TO BLACK AFRICA "TO PROVIDE
POSITIVE INDICATION OF U.S. INTEREST IN THIS PART OF THE
CONTINENT." I REITERATED SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN A VISIT
BUT NOTED DIFFICULTY OF ADVANCE PLANNING OF HIS SCHEDULE
AND CITED EXAMPLES OF HIS OTHER OBLIGATIONS, BOTH ANTICIPATED
AND UNEXPECTED, THAT COMPLICATED THE MATTER.

3. GARBA IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER. GARBA SAID HE PLANNED
TO GO TO THE UN FOR ABOUT A WEEK, DEPARTING FOR NEW YORK
BETWEEN NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 2. HE VERY MUCH HOPED HE
COULD SEE SECRETARY KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON DURING THAT
PERIOD. I SAID I WOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY
OF HIS PLANS AND I SAID I PERSONALLY BELIEVE A VISIT TO
WASHINGTON WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. JOINT COMMISSION. I SAID THERE WERE OTHER ISSUES AND
PROPOSALS THAT WE WOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH HIM AND HIS FMG
COLLEAGUES IN COMING MONTHS IN OUR JOINT ENDEAVOR STRENGTHEN
CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS. A POSSIBILITY TO BE EXPLORED IN THIS
FIELD MIGHT BE THE JOINT COMMISSION DEVICE IN EVENT WE WERE
MUTUALLY TO CONCLUDE THAT TRADITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT
PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS. CITING THOSE COMMISSIONS ALREADY
ESTABLISHED WITH MIDDLE EASTERN STATES AND TWO RECENT
ADDITIONS WITH BRAZIL AND INDONESIA, I SPOKE OF POSSIBILITIES
SUCH A MECHANISM MIGHT OFFER, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR BETTER ACCESS
BY NIGERIA TO TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE IN AREAS OF PRIORITY
CONCERN. IN VIEW NIGERIA'S ADMITTED NEED FOR MASSIVE INCRE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 11626 01 OF 02 241842Z

MENTS OF TRAINED MANPOWER, WE WANTED TO FIND WASY OF IMPROV-
ING U.S. ABILITIES RESPOND TO SUCH NEEDS IF REQUESTED. GARBA
ADMITTED NIGERIAN RECRUITMENT TEAMS AND OTHER TALENT SEARCH
EFFORTS HAVE BEEN HELTER SKELTER AND HAVE NOT ALWAYS WORKED
AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT HOPED. I CITED BROAD RANGE OF POSSI-
BILITIES OFFERED BY JOINT COMMISSIONS AS WELL AS HIGH LEVEL
INTEREST THEY CAN ENLIST. GARBA SAID HE THOUGHT SUCH
ARRANGEMENT COULD BE TO U.S.-NIGERIAN MUTUAL ADVANTAGE. I

SAID I WOULD PROVIDE HIM WRITTEN SUMMARY OF RECENT U.S. EXPERIENCE WITH COMMISSION CONCEPT. GARBA SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO STUDY THIS. I SAID WE HAD DISCUSSED COMMISSION MECHANISM WITH KEY MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS REGIME AND WISHED TO DO SOME WITH NEW INCUMBENTS IN SUCH MINISTRIES AS EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, TRADE, FINANCE, ETC. HE SAID MEA WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUCH DISCUSSION.

5. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S VISIT. I SAID WE VERY MUCH HOPED UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON COULD VISIT NIGERIA IN NEAR FUTURE. I EXPLAINED ROBINSON'S ROLE AS SECRETARY'S PRINCIPAL ADVISER ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND SAID HE WOULD PARTICULARLY WISH DISCUSS MUTUAL INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES IN AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, PETROLEUM AND ENERGY. I SAID WE HAD NO PROPOSED DATES FROM WASHINGTON FOR POSSIBLE ROBINSON VISIT, BUT IF FMG COULD SUGGEST FEASIBLE PERIOD OR PERIODS, EMBASSY WOULD SEE WHETHER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIMING COULD BE WORKED OUT. GARBA SAID HE WOULD GIVE THIS HIS CAREFUL AND PROMPT CONSIDERATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11626 02 OF 02 241841Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 PC-01 SCA-01 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 AGR-05 FAA-00

DOTE-00 VO-03 CU-02 /106 W

----- 009684

R 241735Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2138

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LAGOS 11626

6. COMMERCIAL AND AGRIBUSINESS EXPANSION. PURSUING OTHER ENCOURAGING ELEMENTS CURRENT U.S.-NIGERIAN SCENE, I EXPRESSED OUR SATISFACTION THAT NEW CONTRACTS WITH U.S. TRUCK MANUFACTURERS FOR OVER \$100 MILLION APPEARED WELL IN HAND (LAGOS 11182). I EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE WE COULD BE OF SIMILAR ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED MILITARY BARRACKS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (LAGOS 11525). I ALSO CITED AGRIBUSINESS POSSIBILITIES BEING DISCUSSED WITH AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER MAFENI (LAGOS 10798).

7. FAA AGREEMENT. I SAID NEGOTIATIONS WERE HANGING FIRE. BALL WAS IN FMG'S COURT. GARBA SAID NEW COMMISSIONER FOR AVIATION WANTED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS. GARBA SEEMED PERSONALLY FAVORABLE TO PROMPT COMPLETION OF ARRANGMENTS.

8. VISAS FOR NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST. GARBA SEEMED TAKEN ABACK THAT NEW YORK TIMES VISA HAD NOT BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 11626 02 OF 02 241841Z

GRANTED (MICHAEL KAUFMAN). HIS STAFF AND I REMINDED HIM THAT FMG HAD TOLD US THAT REPLACEMENT FOR TOM JOHSON NOT OPPORTUNE DURING SHAKEDOWN PERIOD OF NEW GOVERNMENT. KAUFMAN HAD THEREFORE BEEN POSTED TO NAIROBI. I SAID WASHINGTON POST NOT INTERESTED IN ASSIGNING REPORTER TO LAGOS FOR A MONTH AND WISHED IDENTIFY LOCAL JOURNALIST WHO COULD BE PERMANENT POST STRINGER. GARBA APPEARED TO BE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH MERITS OF POST PROPOSAL.

9. OTHER VISA PROBLEMS. I CITED OTHER VISA PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY CASES WHERE AMERICAN TEACHER OR EXPERT OR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER HAD BEEN ENGAGED BY NIGERIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND THEN DELAYED FOR MONTHS BY VISA PROBLEMS. GARBA SEEMED SURPRISED THERE STILL WERE DIFFICULTIES, SAID VISA PROCEDURES HAD BEEN GREATLY LIBERALIZED AND STREAMLINED AND ASKED THAT WE LET HIM KNOW OF ANY PROBLEMS. WE ASSURED HIM WE WOULD.

10. ENUGU CULTURAL CENTER. REFERRING TO A NOTE WE HAD SENT HIS MINISTRY A MONTH AGO, I SAID WE REMAINED MUCH INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL CENTER IN ENUGU ALONG LINES OF BRITISH COUNCIL THERE. GARBA ASKED WHETHER WE HAD REOPENED OUR CONSULATE. I SAID THIS WAS A LONG-STANDING REQUEST STILL PENDING WITH HIS MINISTRY. WE SAW IMPORTANT DIVIDENDS FOR NIGERIANS AS WELL AS AMERICANS FROM A CONSULATE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE EAST, PERHAPS IN PORT HARCOURT. I REVIEWED THE LEVEL OF CONSULAR WORK ORIGINATING IN THE EAST AND CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED BY A HARD-PRESSED CONSULAR STAFF IN LAGOS. GARBA

SAID THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE LAGOS WAS UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW AND STUDY.

11. PEACE CORPS POSSIBILITIES. PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE VITO STAGLIANO THEN JOINED US TO DISCUSS ROLE PEACE CORPS MIGHT PLAY IN HELPING NIGERIA MEET MANPOWER NEEDS. GARBA'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WAS TO PRAISE PCV BASKETBALL COACH SMITH, "WHO HAS DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB HERE." (GARBA WAS REELECTED A WEEK AGO AS PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION.) HE SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF WHAT THE PEACE CORPS HAD DONE FOR BASKETBALL THROUGHOUT AFRICA. NIGERIAN MANPOWER NEEDS WERE GREAT, AND HE WOULD BE PERSONALLY RECEPTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 11626 02 OF 02 241841Z

TO GENERAL IDEA OF EXPANDED PC PRESENCE IN NIGERIA. REFERRING TO DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN NIGERIA BY PEACE CORPS DURING CIVIL WAR, GARBA SAID PRESENT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS REALISTIC AND "DOES NOT RUN ON EMOTION"; IF PEACE CORPS CAN BE OF HELP, "IT WILL BE WELCOMED." HE CONCURRED IN MY SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSY AND STAGLIANO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES WITH MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE. GARBA SAID THAT IF ANY OF THESE WERE INTERESTED IN PCV'S, MEA WOULD POSE NO OBJECTION. (SEE LAGOS TOPEC 11584).

12. NIGERIAN VOTES ON KOREA AND ZIONISM/RACISM. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST EXPLANATION OF NIGERIAN UN VOTE ON KOREAN ISSUE, BUT ALL I COULD GET OUT OF GARBA WAS THAT FMG SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO BRING TWO KOREAS TOGETHER AND DID NOT WANT SOUTH KOREA TO FEEL ABANDONED; IF SOUTH KOREA FELT WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS JEOPARDIZED ITS SECURITY, NIGERIA WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY, SUCH AS UN TROOP FORCE DRAWN FROM REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF COUNTRIES. I SAID I THOUGHT NIGERIAN POSITION WAS CLOSER TO U.S.-SUPPORTED RESOLUTION THAN TO ALGERIAN. I ADDED THAT WASHINGTON HAD BEEN DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED IN NIGERIAN VOTE ON THE ISSUE, AND SIMILARLY ON THE ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION. GARBA SEEMED UNCOMFORTABLE AT THIS AND SAID THE ZIONISM QUESTION HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE FOR NIGERIA. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD HIS DELEGATION TO STALL ON THE MATTER AND HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT THE RESOLUTION HAD GONE THROUGH. (COMMENT: NIGERIA IN FACT VOTED TO OPPOSE BELGIAN RESOLUTION ON POSTPONEMENT.)

13. COMMENT: GARBA'S ATTITUDE AND RESPONSES SUPPORT GROWING EVIDENCE FROM OTHER QUARTERS THAT NEW FMG REGIME HOLDS U.S. IN HIGH REGARD AND WISHES STRENGTHEN U.S.-NIGERIAN COLLABORATION; HAS CONSIDERED U.S./BIAFRA PROBLEM TO ANCIENT HISTORY; AND HARBORS RELATIVELY FEW OF THE SUSPICIONS, PREJUDICES AND SENSITIVITIES OF CERTAIN KEY ACTORS OF PREVIOUS REGIME LIKE MEA PERMSEC JOE IYALLA (OR IS AT LEAST WILLING TO KEEP THEM UNDER COVER). WHILE CURRENT SALUBRIOUS

CLIMATE COULD OF COURSE CHANGE AT ANY TIME, WE VIEW PRESENT
ENVIORNMENT AS HIGHLY PROPITIOUS FOR U.S. INITIATIVES AND
ACTIONS DESIGNED TO FORTIFY OUR ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH
THIS IMPORTANT COUNTRY. WE ARE SUBMITTING BY SEPTTEL ADDITIONAL
COMMENT AND ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 11626 02 OF 02 241841Z

EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TERRITORIAL REVERSION, ARMISTICE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, ZIONISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS11626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750409-0216
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751116/aaaaanvw.tel
Line Count: 289
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA: IMPROVED U.S. -NIGERIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, NI, US, (GARBA, JOSEPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006